



## **Project ASSIST (Augmentation of Special-needs Services and Information to Students and Teachers)**

### **Background**

Military children in the educational system in Hawaii have not been receiving intervention services comparable to military dependents in many of the other Department of Defense base locations (particularly those locations in which Department of Defense Dependent Schools exist). It is difficult to determine the exact number of children that are in need of services but comparison numbers from Europe would indicate that military students in Hawaii are being underserved. Currently, only children that educationally mandated needs are receiving Medically Related Services through the schools. Often, a child may need services but not meet the criteria for educationally mandated services but do not meet criteria in either the educational system or in TRICARE (i.e. a child with a moderate to severe articulation problem but no medical etiology).

### **Organization**

- Principal Investigator – Thomas E. Gallagher, M.D., Exceptional Family Member Program, Dept. of Pediatrics, TAMC
- Co-Investigator – LTC Charles W. Callahan, Chief, Department of Pediatrics, TAMC
- Co-Investigator – CDR Robert Buckley, Department of Pediatrics, TAMC
- Co-Investigator – Francis Malone, M.D., Department of Pediatrics, TAMC
- Project Manager – Sean Wong, Pacific e-Health Innovation Center, TAMC
- Technical Director – Mark Ching, Pacific e-Health Innovation Center, TAMC

### **Mission Statement**

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate that telemedicine can be used to improve the delivery of medical care to special needs children in the school setting and to develop an Internet based educational program for providers, parents and teachers.

### **Goals and Objectives**

It has been determined that a demonstration project in Hawaii representation a collaborative effort among Hawaii Departments of Education and Health, the Department of Defense and the University of Hawaii could best serve the purpose of increasing and enhancing the service provision for all special needs students. This study will have three (3) major areas of emphasis:

- 1) Demonstration project of satisfaction in the delivery of care to special needs children by the use of extenders receiving electronic supervision by licensed providers.
- 2) Demonstration project for evaluation of medically related diagnoses with emphasis on ADHD, CAPD, ASD and Dyslexia.
- 3) Development of a web-based educational program for providers and recipients of services.

For the first part of the project, it is proposed that the University of Hawaii will develop a protocol for MRS extenders in the classroom. Video of integrated interventions will be taken at regular intervals for review by licensed providers who will make recommendations. In addition, there will be an analysis of pre and post intervention satisfaction questionnaires that will be completed by parents and providers.

The second part of the study will concentrate on children with possible Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) and Dyslexia. An algorithm will be developed for teachers that will enable them to initiate the evaluation process. A web-based store and forward video taken of the child's classroom activity, along with pertinent history and data will be forwarded to health professionals who can render an opinion and prescribe treatment.

The third part of the project will involve the development of an educational web site for parents and teachers to provide educational and professional development opportunities.

In order to provide the necessary services, additional personnel in the following areas will be needed: Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech/Language Pathologists and Administrative staff. There may also be a need to hire Early Childhood Education Specialists.

#### **Current Status**

- 1) An InterAgency Committee comprised of TAMC project staff, the Departments of Education and Health and the University of Hawaii was formed and meetings have been ongoing since the start of the project.
- 2) A Project Manager and a Technical Director from the Pacific e-Health Innovation Center was assigned to the project full time.
- 3) KPMG Consulting - Hawaii was awarded the contract to perform the Needs Assessment Survey and Pre and Post-Intervention Questionnaires.
- 4) Research proposal passed through DCI – currently with HSRRB at MRMC
- 5) Hale Kula Elementary and Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary were chosen as the beta sites for the projects.
- 6) Meetings with the principals from both schools were held and staff briefings also occurred.
- 7) Site and network assessment of Hale Kula Elementary completed.
- 8) Briefed the Joint Venture Education Forum – U.S. Pacific Command (Camp Smith)
- 9) 1<sup>st</sup> Bill of Materials (BOM) completed and submitted.
- 10) Provider Focus Group completed by KPMG, report due.
- 11) Soliciting participants for Parent Focus Groups – Will occur on OCT 10-11

#### **Projected Timeline**

- 1) Complete SOWs for OTs/PTs, Behavioral and Educational Psychologists, Psychology Technicians and Administrative Assistants – OCT 2000
- 2) Hold Parent Focus Group meetings on OCT 10 & 11, 2000
- 3) Attend next HSRRB meeting on OCT 23, 2000
- 4) Determine final technical specs for Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary – OCT 2000
- 5) Begin website – OCT 2000
- 6) Begin network upgrade at Hale Kula Elementary – NOV 2000
- 7) Hire all intervention personnel – DEC 2000
- 8) Photo opportunity and demo to Senator Inouye – JAN 2001

#### **Strategic Direction**

The partnering of Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii's Departments of Education and Health and the University of Hawaii to explore the utilization of telemedicine solutions to improve the accessibility, timeliness and delivery of care to special needs children. Eventually the lessons learned and successful performance models will be handed off to the State of Hawaii.

Military Significance: The services provided by Project ASSIST will reduce the concern for the active duty dependents' well being and hopefully change the negative stigma associated with being stationed in Hawaii. This reduction of concern will help to improve readiness and availability as well as reduce educational costs spent for special needs services outside the public school system.

#### **Business Associations**

##### Corporate Partnerships:

KPMG Consulting Group  
Market Trends Pacific  
Information Network Systems, INC.  
Information Systems Support of CA  
EDS

##### Government Partnerships:

Tripler Army Medical Center  
Department of Education  
Department of Health  
University of Hawaii

**Project Security**

Systems security: Digital certificates and SSL Encryption to transmit data securely over the web

Standards compliance measures: HICFA guidelines for security

**Summary**

This project delineates a collaborative effort among all mentioned parties to enhance and compliment the provision of services for special needs students aged 3-20 years of age. The three areas of need:

1) The use of extenders receiving electronic supervision by licensed providers; 2) The evaluation of the four most common medical diagnoses and 3) The development of a web based educational program for providers and recipients of services, will be the primary focus of the project. The telemedicine solutions used will hopefully improve the accessibility, timeliness and delivery of care to the special needs children in Hawaii.